

March 13, 2014
Middlesex Municipal Building

The Regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Public Library and called to order by Vice Chairman Dan Gitler:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 16, 2013”

Members:	Jason Bond (absent) Dan Gitler Bob Ferris Jim Gorman Frank Ryan
Alternates:	Betty Platten (Alt. #1) (absent) Sean Johnson (Alt. #2)
Liaison	Sean Kaplan
Secretary	Linda Chismar

Alternate Sean Johnson was welcomed as Alternate No. 2 to the Shade Tree Commission.

Vice Chairman Gitler opened the meeting to the public.

Rob & Kathy Hartje, 218 Appian Way attended the meeting and requested that the Shade Tree Commission consider planting trees on Hazelwood Avenue between Orchard and Shepherd. When the sidewalk renovations were completed, the trees that were removed were never replaced and this portion of the road looks barren. Vice Chairman Gitler indicated that the Commission will attempt to make this area a priority for trees and hand out flyers to residents in this area and request if they would like a tree.

Seeing that there was no further public participation, Vice Chairman Gitler closed the public portion of the meeting.

Mr. Ferris made a motion to accept the February 13, 2014 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to accept the January 9, 2014 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to accept the amended December 12, 2013 Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Ferris and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Gitler made a motion to accept the January and February, 2013 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Communications

1. 419 Chestnut Street – Sean Johnson will look at the tree in front of this property to see if it is diseased.
2. 316 Raphael Street – Sean Johnson and Bob Ferris will look at the tree leaning on the power lines in front of this house to see if it should be removed.
3. 408 Walnut Street – Frank Ryan will look to see if the oak tree next to the driveway needs trimming.
4. 277 Anthony Avenue – Dan Gitler will look at the tree on borough property next to this property to see if it should be trimmed or removed.
5. 409 A Street – Sean Johnson will look at the tree in the front of this property that is dropping branches to see if it needs to be removed or trimmed.
6. 218 Appian Way – Dan Gitler will check on the tree in front of this property for the Hartjes.

Work Agenda

- (1) 219 D Street – Commission feels that they should wait until Spring to look at this tree and evaluate.
- (2) 127 Parker Street – Commission agreed that this tree should be removed.
- (3) 307-311 Greene Avenue – Mr. Ryan will look at the tree before Spring to confirm that it is dead. Also, the Victor Crowell Committee will be looking at all trees at the Park and hopefully work will be done this year.
- (4) 15 Edward Avenue – Mr. Ferris will recheck the Pin Oak when the leaves have bloomed in the spring and it may need trimming.
- (5) 400 – 500 Block of Melrose Avenue – Mr. Bond will look at the sidewalks that are lifting.
- (6) 121 Parker Street – Commission agreed that this tree should be removed.
- (7) 210 Lincoln Boulevard – Commission feels that this tree is healthy and nothing is needed.
- (8) Trees on Hawthorne Hanging over the street – Dan Gitler and Frank Ryan will look at the removal of these branches.
- (9) 209 Lincoln Boulevard – When checking 210 Lincoln Boulevard commissioner was made aware of a large pear tree that needs to be removed. Commission approved.

Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – This was discussed briefly, but was tabled until the April 10, 2014 Meeting for Chairman Bond to bring back any information to the Commission.

New Business

- (A) Location of Arbor Day Tree – Commission agreed to plant a 2 ½” – 3” Swamp White Oak at the Watchung School Playground on Howard Avenue.
- (B) Council Liaison Sean Kaplan mentioned that the Finance Committee has approved the Shade Tree Budget for 2014 at \$50,000. He also requested that if the Commission wants to get more funds for 2015 that they put together a “Master Plan” as a 5 year proposal to replace trees. Councilman Liaison Sean Kaplan also mentioned that the Shade Tree Commission has the authority to use the funds in the “tree replacement fund”.
- (C) Council Liaison Sean Kaplan also indicated that the Fire Department is now driving through town and marking trees with low hanging branches that need to be trimmed for the new fire trucks. They will come back with a master list and Shade Tree will get the list and see if the DPW can do a lot of the trimming, and if not Predator will give the borough an estimate for the additional work.
- (D) New Jersey Tree Recovery Campaign – This Campaign was briefly discussed and has been organized by Jason Bond to hand out the tree seedlings at the Easter Egg Hunt on April 12, 2014. Commission will discuss further at the April 10, 2014 Meeting.

Vice Chairman Gitler moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY,
APRIL 10, 2014 – 7:30 PM
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

